



May 12, 2016

Remember Me



So there I was, in Newport at their Film Festival. Having won a pair of tickets, I searched until I found that one of my all-time favorite actresses, Rita Moreno, was in a new film. I was elated. Even more so when I read that there would be a Q & A after the screening. Let me tell you, there is nothing better than seeing an icon in person and having them be exactly how you imagined. Rita Moreno has been a symbol of just what one little Puerto Rican woman can accomplish in the world. Ms. Moreno was the first person to win the Emmy, Grammy Oscar, and Tony awards. I knew I was in for a treat. This was a hot fudge sundae.

Remember Me is a lovely, bittersweet film about two cousins Steve Goldbloom and

Joel Kelly Dauten who play Vincent and Barry. Both of these men have to “man up” when tragedy strikes in a most unexpected and darkly comical way. Left to carry on is their grandmother Nanna, a very recent widow. The emotional journey through her profound and immediate loss, grief and mourning are exquisitely played out with each close up on Rita Moreno’s soft, expressive face. Her beauty remains timeless and classic in the memories she clings to, like the soft satin dress around her still graceful dancer’s frame. She says volumes with every tear.



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With each adventure, we learn more and more about these young men and how even a disaster can be a life lesson. Growing up is hard enough, growing old is even harder. What happens to us may seem random and without logic, but watching *Remember Me* reminded me that there is recovery in the middle of the crisis and despite the trauma, no matter how old you are, life really can go on, if you go on with it. I loved the way the film dealt with tragedy and the improvised moments between the actors that blended seamlessly into the action. Anyone who has ever dealt with an aging parent should see this film.

Remember Me is also good for older adults to see as a source of encouragement and hope. It is a challenge to everyone to deal with the eventualities of life head on—without fear or resignation. I hope they make another film with the same characters only a year or so in the future. Maybe the next one could be about everyone dealing with Nanna's new boyfriend and the ins and outs of intimacy after age 70. How about it? Please find this film. You will love it. Members of AARP, this one is for you, your children and your grandchildren. Look for it when it comes to a theater near you. I give *Remember Me* five golden tickets. Don't miss it.

